

Panhandle Sun



The Newsletter of the Panhandle Library System

August/September 2009

2009 NEBRASKA LIBRARY LEADERSHIP VISION STATEMENT

We, the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute class of 2009, work collaboratively to bridge the gap among all types of libraries to achieve the goal of enriching lives and the communities we serve.

With one voice, we commit ourselves to the following actions to reach this vision:

- We develop libraries as community hubs, bringing together resources and facilities at a cost savings to our constituencies
- We recognize the need for sustainable, eco-friendly design as we grow to meet our consumer's needs
- We cultivate community partnerships to maximize the return on financial investments
- We enrich lives by providing recreational, educational, and literacy services
- We celebrate the changing diversity in our communities with our staff, collections, and programs
- We foster lifelong learning, encouraging customers to transform information and ideas into usable knowledge
- We attract, train, and retain exceptional leaders
- We actively seek new ways to harness the Internet so that all citizens can find the information and entertainment they seek without going to library school

Nebraska's libraries - school, academic, public, and special - serve as gateways to an ever-growing world of information. Through our service, we guide our citizens, students and leaders in their pursuit of knowledge, enjoyment and lifelong learning.

In This Issue:

- **PLS Upcoming Events;** P. 2
- **PLS Scholarship Information;** P. 3
- **PLS Sponsored SRP Event;** P. 4
- **NPR Audience Picks Best Beach Books Ever;** P. 5
- **Meet the New PLS Administrative Assistant;** P. 8
- **Nebraska STAR Libraries;** P. 9



Panhandle library System Upcoming Events



September 8, 2009 PLS Board Meeting, Lunch, and Committee Meetings

Location: Bluffs Business Center, 1517 Broadway, Scottsbluff, NE

Time: 10:00am to 12 noon- Board Meeting

12:00 noon to 1:00pm- Lunch (PLS will provide lunch and drink)

1:00pm- Committee Meetings

Please RSVP to the System office by September 3rd if you plan to eat lunch.

September 14, 2009 Public Librarians Meeting Southern Panhandle

Location: WNCC – Sidney

Time: 10:00am

Topic: To be determined

October 20, 2009 Public Librarians Meeting Northern Panhandle

Location: Crawford Schools

Time: 10:00am

Topic: Programming

October 28, 29,30 2009 NLA/NEMA Annual Conference

Theme: Nebraska Libraries, Bridges to Information

Location: La Vista Conference Center, 12520 Westport Parkway, La Vista, NE

For details go to: <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference/>

November 10, 2009 Panhandle Library System Board Meeting

Location: Bluffs Business Center, 1517 Broadway, Scottsbluff – Main floor conference room

Time: 10:00am

Contact: Panhandle Library System Toll Free 888-879-5303 Ph 308-632-1350

November 14, 2009 2009 Nebraska Book Festival

Location: Nebraska State Historical Society's Museum of Nebraska History, 15th & P Streets, Lincoln, NE

An awards luncheon will honor the winners of the Center for the Book's Mildred Bennett Award, Jane Geske Award, and Nebraska Book Awards. Writers Workshops will be offered free of charge.

Contact: Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Library Commission Communications Coordinator,
402-471-3434

Scholarship Money is Available for Continuing Education

Do you want to attend the 2009 NLA/NEMA Conference, but just cannot seem to find the money to attend? The Panhandle Library System may be able to help. **Apply for a PLS Scholarship today!**

The Panhandle Library System Board established a scholarship fund to facilitate professional development. Librarians, Media Specialists, Board Members, Trustees, and any other people involved in library service in the Panhandle Library System may use monies in the fund for attendance at professional meetings, classes, workshops, or other beneficial academic activities.

Please use the enclosed application to apply for a PLS scholarship.



Provisions of Scholarship

- Each applicant must submit an application letter and form any time prior to or two weeks after the event for which the scholarship is intended.
- The Scholarship Committee will review each application and recommendations will be given to the Panhandle Library System Board for approval or denial.
- Requests for a scholarship can be for any amount but will not exceed \$300.00.
- The Scholarship Committee has the right to adjust the amount requested depending on the budget and number of applicants during a fiscal year.
- Scholarships will be evaluated on a first come first serve basis.
- Priority will be given to those events within the state.
- Individual applicants will be limited to requesting scholarships once in a two-year period.
- Budget, event, amount requested, and the number of applicants will dictate approval or denial of the scholarship requests. More than one scholarship request from the same library agency during a two-year period will need to be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee.
- Scholarship recipients are requested to provide a brief article in the System Newsletter as a form of resource sharing within one month of completion of the activity. The article is submitted to the PLS Coordinator.

The Panhandle Library System sponsored a Summer Reading Program event this year. Mr. Conrad's Musicademy performed "To Create is Great" at 28 public libraries across the Panhandle.



Mitchell Public Library



Scottsbluff Public Library



Potter Public Library



Goodall City Library



Gordon Public Library



Morrill Public Library

National Public Radio Audience Picks: Best Beach Books Ever

Nearly 16,000 NPR listeners casted some 136,000 votes in NPR's Best Beach Books Ever poll. You will find the complete list of 100 Best Beach Books Ever at <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=106983620>. Listed in this newsletter are the top 35 audience favorites.

1. *The Harry Potter* series, by J.K. Rowling
2. *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee
3. *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini
4. *Bridget Jones's Diary*, by Helen Fielding
5. *Pride and Prejudice*, by Jane Austen
6. *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*, by Rebecca Wells
7. *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald
8. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, by Douglas Adams
9. *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe*, by Fannie Flagg
10. *The Poisonwood Bible*, by Barbara Kingsolver
11. *The Time Traveler's Wife*, by Audrey Niffenegger
12. *Life of Pi*, by Yann Martel
13. *The Joy Luck Club*, by Amy Tan
14. *The Hobbit*, by J.R.R. Tolkien
15. *The Catcher in the Rye*, by J.D. Salinger
16. *Gone with the Wind*, by Margaret Mitchell
17. *Bel Canto*, by Ann Patchett
18. *The Lord of the Rings*, by J.R.R. Tolkien
19. *Middlesex*, by Jeffrey Eugenides
20. *Water for Elephants*, by Sara Gruen
21. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain
22. *The Bean Trees*, by Barbara Kingsolver
23. *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*, by Alexander McCall Smith
24. *The World According to Garp*, by John Irving
25. *Catch-22*, by Joseph Heller
26. *The Prince of Tides*, by Pat Conroy
27. *Like Water for Chocolate*, by Laura Esquivel
28. *The Princess Bride*, by William Goldman
29. *The Accidental Tourist*, by Anne Tyler
30. *Twilight*, by Stephenie Meyer
31. *A Confederacy of Dunces*, by John Kennedy Toole
32. *East of Eden*, by John Steinbeck
33. *The Red Tent*, by Anita Diamant
34. *Beach Music*, by Pat Conroy
35. *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, by Gabriel Garcia Marquez



**Go to <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference> to register for the
NLA-NEMA 2009 Annual Conference**



Nebraska Libraries: Bridges to Information

NLA / NEMA 2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 28-30

LA VISTA CONFERENCE CENTER

Welcome to the 2009 NLA/NEMA Conference website

Home

Registration

Pre-Conferences

Keynote Speakers

Special Events

Conference Program

Information for Presenters

Presenters' Handouts

Information for Exhibitors

Contact Us

Lodging Information:

Conference Hotel

Reservations (special rate)

Driving Directions

Nebraska Libraries have been bridges to information for patrons of all ages for many years.

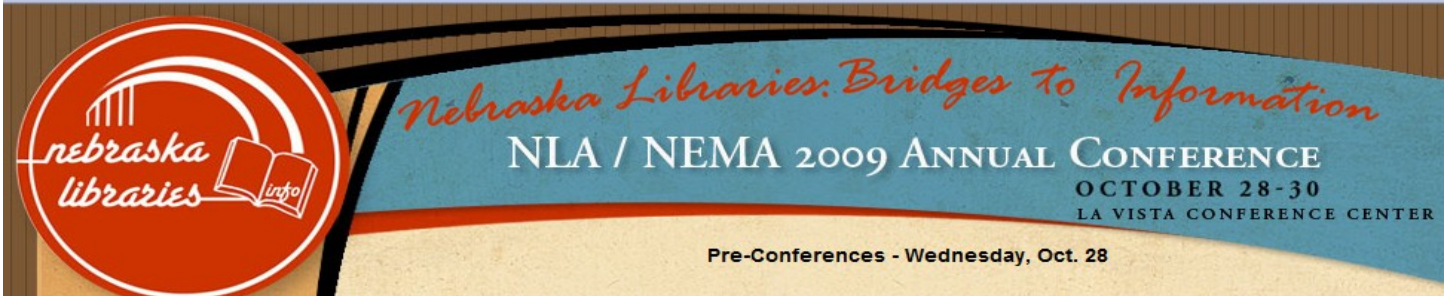
Join us October 28-30 for three days of sessions and networking opportunities designed to strengthen those bridges and build new foundations at the 2009 conference. The conference will be held at the new Embassy Suites Omaha - La Vista Hotel & Conference Center, off I-80 by the newest Cabela's in Nebraska.

Exciting details will be added as they become available, so check back often!

Get into the Web 2.0 groove and keep up with the conference happenings using one or more of the social networking tools listed on the left.

Be sure to check out a copy of the book *Playing With the Enemy* by keynote speaker Gary W. Moore for your summer reading.





NLA/NEMA 2009 Preconferences

October 28, 2009

Oh Good Grief! – Bereavement Issues for Librarians

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Price = \$20.00

Lunch on your own

Register at: [http://
www.nebraskalibraries.org/
conference/
preconference2009.pdf](http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference/preconference2009.pdf)

The speaker for this pre-conference is Joy Johnson, co-founder of the Centering Corporation.

While this is a serious subject, the workshop will NOT be grim. Death and grief are inevitable, but not many of us are comfortable with it.

Librarianship is one of the "helping professions", but few have had the training in how to help people dealing with grief. This workshop will provide the tools and techniques for dealing with grief and grieving.

NLA PLTS Legalities and Public Libraries Policies and Procedures Pre- Conference

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Price = \$10.00

Register at: [http://
www.nebraskalibraries.org/
conference/2009/
Legalities_Pre-
Conference_Application.pdf](http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference/2009/Legalities_Pre-Conference_Application.pdf)

This pre-conference is a follow-up to the presentation on the same subject that was given by Adam Prochaska during the 2009 NLA Public Library and Trustee Section (PLTS) spring meetings in Wahoo, Bridgeport and Lexington.

We will be limited in capacity to about 50 persons due to the size of the room available at the conference center, so early registrations are encouraged. The deadline for reservations is **Monday, October 19th.**

Library Camp Nebraska II

9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Price = Free

Lunch on your own

Visit the Library Camp Nebraska website to register and learn more! [http://
librarycampne-
braska.pbworks.com/](http://librarycampnebraska.pbworks.com/)

Sponsored by The Nebraska Library Commission and ITART

Library Camp Nebraska II is the second in a series of unconferences throughout the state of Nebraska.

Participation will be limited to just the first 50 registrants and is open to **anyone** who is interested in dialogue and conversation about customer-friendly libraries, library 2.0 and how we can all improve our services and organizations to meet the needs of our communities.

Meet the New Panhandle Library System Administrative Assistant:

Jeralyn Clapper

"I'm very excited about being the new Administrative Assistant for the Panhandle Library System. I feel this position is a great opportunity for me. I love the quiet working atmosphere and wide variety of tasks you get to perform. Every day is different. The people I have met are very nice and have all been quite helpful through the transition. I can't think of a better way to spend my day."



PLS was very busy this summer proving workshops for member libraries.



2009 PLS Annual Meeting



PLS Automation Vendor Workshop



Pat Wagner Workshop at WNCC-Sidney

Nebraska has ten STAR Libraries

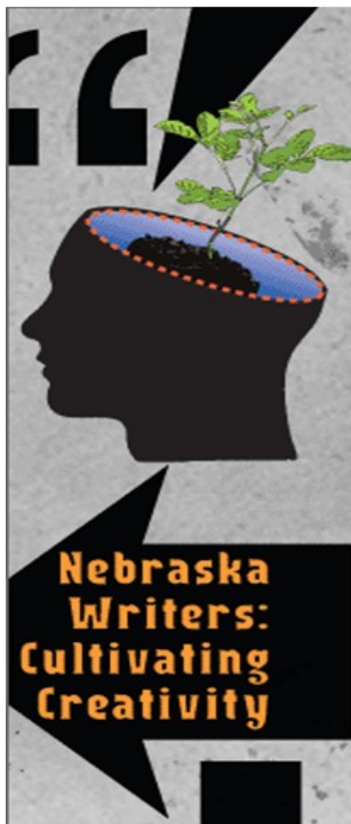
From: <http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6629180.html>

The *LJ* Index of Public Library Service is a new public library national rating system instituted by *Library Journal* and sponsored Baker & Taylor's *Bibliostat Connect* web-based statistical analysis software for public libraries. This 2009 edition of the *LJ* Index is based upon 2006 public library statistical data published by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The *LJ* Index rates U.S. public libraries with total expenditures of \$10,000 or more that serve populations of at least 1000. Ratings are based on four per-capita service indicators: library visits, circulation, program attendance, and public Internet computer uses. Libraries must report all four statistical indicators to receive an *LJ* Index score.

LJ Index ratings divide libraries into nine peer comparison groups based on total operating expenditures. Within each group the highest scoring libraries are recognized using 5-star, 4-star, and 3-star designations. Each star-rating group contains ten libraries, except for the \$30 million and above group for which each star-rating contains five libraries. Star ratings are based on Index scores.

Libraries are evaluated on each service indicator relative to the performance of other libraries in their peer group. The scoring compares each library's four indicators to the peer group average for that indicator. The four indicators all receive equal weighting. The *LJ* Index is offered as an overall indication of a library's service performance relative to peer libraries. The statistical data *LJ* Index uses do not report the quality of services provided. Libraries should use *LJ* Index ratings in tandem with locally developed performance data. All U.S. public libraries meeting the criteria outlined above have earned *LJ* Index scores. These scores and related information can be found on the *LJ* website. The index is sponsored by Baker & Taylor's *Bibliostat*, and dynamic access to the scores and associated data is provided exclusively by *Bibliostat Connect*.

Stars	Library	City	State	Circulation / Cap.	Visits / Cap.	Program Atten- dance / Cap.	Internet Terminal Uses / Cap.	Score
5	Ravenna Public Library	Ravenna	NE	9.4	6.1	5.2	2.7	1811
5	Syracuse Public Library	Syracuse	NE	6.3	7.2	5.0	2.8	1750
4	Wymore Public Library	Wymore	NE	8.7	9.7	3.3	2.5	1549
4	Crawford Public Library	Crawford	NE	12.8	12.3	1.0	4.2	1452
5	Hartington Public Library	Hartington	NE	27.0	16.4	1.0	10.7	2007
5	Neligh Public Library	Neligh	NE	30.4	10.7	3.2	5.6	1838
3	Geneva Public Library	Geneva	NE	28.7	20.2	0.4	3.7	1498
3	Lied Pierce Public Library	Pierce	NE	18.5	17.7	1.7	2.8	1369
5	Central City Public Library	Central City	NE	29.3	21.4	6.4	9.2	2943
5	Atkinson Public Library	Atkinson	NE	28.0	31.0	2.6	5.6	2259



2009 Nebraska Book Festival Set for November 14 in Lincoln

Nebraska Writers: Cultivating Creativity, 2009 Nebraska Book Festival, November 14, 2009 will be held at the Nebraska State Historical Society's Museum of Nebraska History, 15th and P Streets, Lincoln, Nebraska. The festival will include a variety of literary activities. An awards luncheon will honor the winners of the Center for the Book's Mildred Bennett Award, Jane Geske Award, and Nebraska Book Awards. A selection of Nebraska writers will read from their 2009 works, along with readings from the winners of the Nebraska Book Awards. **Writers Workshops** will be offered free of charge. Teresa Lorensen of the Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation will lead a book discussion of Aldrich's *A Lantern in Her Hand*, this year's enormously popular One Book One Nebraska selection (www.onebookonenebraska.org).

A Conversation with Three Poets will give Nebraska poets Ted Kooser, Bill Kloefkorn, and Don Welch the opportunity to share insights on reading and writing poetry. These long-time members of an intentional writing community will share insights on how they have supported each other's work through the years.

Additional Nebraska author activities and plans for vendors are in the works. The

Festival is sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, and the Nebraska Library Commission.

Noted Nebraska Writers to Appear at the 2009 Nebraska Book Festival, November 14, 2009:

- William Kloefkorn
- Ted Kooser
- Don Welch
- JV Brummels
- Sean Doolittle
- Michael Forsberg
- Harley Jane Kozak
- The Loren Eiseley Society Readers
- Mary Pipher
- Hilda Raz
- Joe Starita
- Stephanie Grace Whitson

For more information see <http://www.nebraskabookfestival.org> or contact [Mary Jo Ryan](mailto:mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us), mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us, Nebraska Library Commission Communications Coordinator, 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665.

**Panhandle Library System
Board Minutes, Tuesday, May 12, 2009
Bluffs Business Center, Scottsbluff**

President Vickie Retzlaff called the meeting to order at 10:01 a. m. Board members present: Terry Christensen, Deb Finley, Vickie Retzlaff, Beth Trupp, Kathy Terrell, Glenda Gamby and Kendra Caskey. Board members absent: Dixie Riley and Floyd Smith III. Also present Margie Harrison, Debbie McCall and Richard Miller.

Vickie Retzlaff asked to add item Scholarships and PLS Awards under new business. The amended agenda was approved.

The minutes of the March 10, 2009, meeting were approved.

Round Table: Vickie Retzlaff discussed the summer library reading program for Grant County. Deb Finley also said Hemingford Public Library was working on the summer reading program. They are also having a historical mural painted on a wall in the library. The money for the mural is from a bequest. Beth Trupp said that Gering Public Library will be offering three different summer reading programs. They will be having local musicians playing on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons during the summer. Gering Public will be using a collection agency to assist them with late books.

PLS Committees: Nominating: Voting has taken place for the board. The slate of officers will be voted at the annual PLS July meeting. Annual Meeting: The annual meeting will be on July 17, 2009, at the Harms Center in Scottsbluff. The theme is "A Touch of Class." CE Tech: The PLS - NEMA workshop will be on August 4, 2009, at ESU 13. Public Relations: No report. Scholarship: There are two applicants.

Nebraska Library Commission Report: Richard Miller represented Rod Wagner at the board meeting. Rod was in Washington D. C. at legislature day for libraries. State aid has been sent to 273 public libraries in the state. The 2009 book awards nominations are due June 30. The Gates Foundation made changes to the rules on the applications. So, they have not been awarded.

PLS Coordinator's Report: Margie presented the report for March and April. There were job-alikes during the two months. The first one was in Ogallala and the second was held at the Farm and Ranch Museum in Gering. DVD's have been received from a grant. The automation workshop will be held on May 28, 2009, at the Harms Center. Margie is running for treasurer of NLA.

Budget: Margie presented the year-to-date financial report.

Old Business: The Policies and Procedures Modifications for treasurer were discussed. The PLS board voted to eliminate the position of treasurer. With Debbie McCall leaving as the Administrative Assistant, there was discussion pertaining to Personnel Policy for the position. The amendments to the current policy were approved. Mr. Conrad's Musicademy will be presenting programs to the Panhandle Library System public libraries. The programs will begin June 3 and end July 16.

New Business: The ballots for new board members have been returned. Margie will be calling the newly elected board members. The members will be announced at the July Annual Meeting at the Harms Center. The proposed PLS budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year was presented. It was approved. PLS awards and scholarships are needed for the annual meeting.

Upcoming Events/Announcements: The upcoming events were highlighted. Best wishes were extended to Debbie McCall as she moves to Memphis. The PLS board thanked her for her years of service to PLS. She was given a Nebraska watch.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:58. The next PLS board meeting will be the annual meeting at the Harms Center on July 17. Registration will be at 9:00 with the annual meeting beginning at 9:30 a. m.

Panhandle Library System
1517 Broadway, Suite 129
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

Coordinator's phone: 308-632-3168

Assistant's phone: 308-632-1350

Toll Free: 888-879-5303

Fax: 308-632-3978

Website: www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/panhandle



PLS Board of Trustees:

Vickie Retzlaff, President

Floyd Smith III, Vice President

Terry Christensen, Secretary

Kendra Caskey

Rick Caudillo

Glenda Gamby

Lori Hartman

Dixie Riley

Sue Shaver

Beth Trupp

Counties Served:

Arthur, Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes,
Deuel, Garden, Grant, Keith, Kimball,
Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan and Sioux

Marjorie Harrison, PLS Coordinator

E-mail: marjorie.harrison@nebraska.gov

Jeralyn Clapper, Administrative Assistant

E-mail: jclapper@charterinternet.com

Panhandle Sun is published 6 times a year by the Panhandle Library System. This publication was supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State of Nebraska through the Nebraska Library Commission.

August/September 2009

***Panhandle Library System
Scholarship Application***

The Panhandle Library System has established a scholarship fund to facilitate the professional development of librarians within the System. Librarians, Media Specialists, and those connected with member agencies within the System may use these monies for attendance at professional meetings, classes, workshops, or other beneficial academic activities.

Provisions of the Scholarship include:

1. Each applicant must submit an application letter and form any time prior to or two weeks after the event for which the scholarship is intended.
2. The Scholarship Committee will review each application and recommendations will be given to the Panhandle Library System Board for approval or denial.
3. Requests for a scholarship can be for any amount but will not exceed \$300.00.
4. The Scholarship Committee has the right to adjust the amount requested depending on the budget and number of applicants during a fiscal year.
5. Scholarships will be evaluated on a first come first serve basis.
6. Priority will be given to those events within the state.
7. Individual applicants will be limited to requesting scholarships once in a three-year period.
8. Budget, event, amount requested, and the number of applicants will dictate approval or denial of the scholarship requests. More than one scholarship request from the same library agency during a two-year period will need to be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee.
9. Scholarship recipients are requested to provide a brief article in the System Newsletter as a form of resource sharing within one month of completion of the activity. Article is submitted to the Coordinator.

*Scholarship Committee
Panhandle Library System
1517 Broadway, Suite 129
Scottsbluff, NE 69361*

**PANHANDLE LIBRARY SYSTEM
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME: _____

LIBRARY/SCHOOL/AGENCY: _____

COMPLETE ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

SCHOLARSHIP ACTIVITY: _____

AMOUNT REQUESTED: _____

PLEASE DESCRIBE THE ACTIVITY, WHY YOU WANT TO ATTEND THIS ACTIVITY, AND HOW IT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH. BE AS SPECIFIC AS POSSIBLE WITH DATE, LOCATION, AND FUNCTION OF THE ACTIVITY.

Revised 5-20-2008

PLS Public Librarians Meetings

Locations throughout the Panhandle

If you are a public librarian or any PLS member you are invited to attend one or all of the public library meetings held throughout the Panhandle. Earn CE credit for attending.



September 14, 2009 Public Librarians Meeting, Southern Panhandle

Location: WNCC—Sidney ,
371 College Dr
Sidney, NE 69162

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Topic : Library Boards and Working with Trustees
2 CE Hours

October 20, 2009 Public Librarians Meeting, Northern Panhandle

Location: Crawford Schools
905 5th Street
Crawford, NE 69339

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Topic : Programming 2 CE Hours



Please register 5 days before your meeting, with the Panhandle Library System office. Toll free 888-879-5303, Phone 308-632-1350, Fax 308-632-3978. Margie's E-mail: marjorie.harrison@nebraska.gov or Jeri's E-mail: jclapper@charterinternet.com

Lunch or dinner reservations may be made following the meeting.

PLS Wants YOU



Join a PLS Committee to help plan and develop activities and services for 2009/2010.

Annual Meeting Committee: This committee plans speakers, activities, and agenda for the PLS annual meeting.

CE/TECH Committee: This committee recommends workshops or other leading opportunities based on priorities from surveys, program evaluations, and suggestions from System members. Special emphasis will be on ways in which to support technology in all libraries through training, communication, resources, and hands-on assistance.

Nominating Committee: This committee provides recommendations for the slate of Board officers for the next fiscal year, and identifies and encourages individuals to run for Board member openings.

Public Relations Committee: This committee recommends ways to increase the visibility of libraries in the Panhandle Library System, and plans promotional activities such as author tours.

Scholarships/Awards Committee: This committee encourages continuing education and achievements by recommending individuals for scholarship awards and recognition for outstanding contributions.

All committees meet for the first time following the PLS Board meeting on September 8, 2009 at the Bluffs Business Center, 1517 Broadway, Scottsbluff, NE. PLS will provide lunch and a drink from 12:00 to 1:00 with the meeting starting at 1:00pm. Please RSVP to the System office by September 3rd if you plan to eat lunch.

Committees meet as needed throughout the year. If you are unable to attend the first meeting in September, you can still participate on a committee.

Sign-up: To sign up for a committee contact Margie or Jeri at the System office, 308-632-1350 or at E-mail : marjorie.harrison@nebraska.gov or jclapper@charterinternet.com

